

S 853
5
F3
copy 1

FLORAL DEGREE

FOR

O. E. S. Chapters



Copyright 1913, by
EMMA E. FARRIER, P. G. M.
NEW JERSEY

PRICE, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Farrier, Emma E.
11

FLORAL DEGREE

FOR

O. E. S. Chapters



Copyright 1913, by
EMMA E. FARRIER, P. G. M.
NEW JERSEY



PRICE, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



115853
5
F3

Obligation Hymn

(Tune: Just Before the Battle, Mother.)

This may be sung as a solo while candidates are kneeling at the altar before repeating the obligation.

As you kneel before our altar
Fix your thoughts on God alone,
While you take the obligation,
Bowing low before His throne.

Be thou ever true and faithful
To the pledge you take this night.
Let the Eastern Star's bright radiance
Shine with undiminished light.



#.21-

©Cl.A346399

ns1

DIRECTIONS



After signing the Membership Roll the Conductress, with her candidates, returns to a position directly in front of the East, facing West.

The officers then march to the West in the following order:

NORTH SIDE	SOUTH SIDE
Chaplain—leading	Marshal—leading
Electa	Adah
Martha	Ruth
Associate Conductress	Esther

marching outside of the star, the lines crossing in the West, where the Associate Matron will hand each star point and the Associate Conductress the flowers appropriate to her station. Then officers come down on each side of Esther's chair, inside the star, crossing back of altar and forming a star around the altar, as per diagram on page 3, all facing in the same direction.

The Worthy Matron coming from the East and the Associate Matron from the West after the others are in position.

When the star is complete, the Worthy Matron steps forward, advances to a position in front of candidates and recites :

Worthy Matron

Sisters of the Eastern Star,
For as such we greet you now—
You have journeyed far to-night
And have learned of Jephtha's vow ;
Ruth, the gleaner, has unfolded
All her constancy and trust,
Esther, who would save her people,
Dared to plead for what was just ;
Martha's trustful faith has triumphed
Over death and every fear,
And Electa stands for charity
And fervency, 'tis clear.
So, these lessons inculcated,
Our Associate will unfold
The sweet story of the flowers
That through ages has been told.

Having finished she steps back behind the Associate Matron, who has moved forward as the Matron stepped out to recite.

The Associate Matron then advances to candidates and recites:

Associate Matron

'Twas an ancient Jewish custom
In the days of long ago
For the women of Jerusalem
At a certain hour to go
Up to Herod's wondrous temple,
And within the womens' court,
To offer their oblations
For the joys the day had wrought.
And they brought rare fruits and flowers
And they laid them on the shrine
As a sacrifice most fitting
For a Father most divine.
So, in token of this custom,
These officers of ours
Will tell how they "Have seen his Star"
In the heart of nature's flowers.

The Matron steps forward to her original position on the outside of star and when the Associate Matron has finished she takes her place behind the Worthy Matron.

Conductress then addresses the Associate Conductress.

(The star, of course, revolving AFTER the Conductress addresses each point).

Conductress

Sister Associate, will you tell us
What assurance YOU present
That these flowers will accomplish
That for which they have been sent ?

The star makes a revolution, bringing the next point (Associate Conductress and Adah) into position, and they also recite their parts, in the same manner as Matron and Associate Matron have done.

Associate Conductress.

(Holding up Bouquet).

These flowers bear the colors of our emblematic
rays
And they tell a wonderful story of gentle woman's
ways;
For God gave to each a message, ere he placed
them 'neath the sod,
And they speak to all receptive hearts in the language of their God.

Conductress.

You have spoken well, my sister,
And the flowers will reply.
Sister Adah, has the blue flower
A message from on high ?

Adah.

I present this modest flower, with its tint of
Heaven's blue

As a token of Fidelity to all that's good and true.

And may YOU, like faithful Adah, say with fast
receding breath:

"Even though my father slay me, I'll be faithful
unto death."

Conductress.

Sister Ruth, What golden gleanings do you offer
at this time

To exemplify the lesson of Ruth's Constancy sub-
lime?

The next revolution of the star brings Ruth and
Esther into position, where they recite.

Ruth.

I present this little flower, with its bright and gol-
den hue,

As a symbol of the Constancy with which God
cares for you.

And as Ruth, in olden stories, toiled to win her
daily bread,

So may industry and patience set their crown upon
YOUR head.

Conductress.

Proud Queen Esther, can you tell us, you who
come from lands afar,

What rare virtue has been hidden in the white
point of our star?

Esther.

I bring this queenly flower, with its crown of light
and joy,
As a symbol of the Purity that shone without alloy
O'er the deeds of royal Esther as she pleaded for
her race,
And may unselfish loyalty in YOUR life find a place.

Conductress.

Sister Martha, art thou mourning
O'er thy brother's lowly tomb?
Or hast thou heard a message
That has banished all death's gloom?

Star revolving again Martha and Electa recite.

Martha.

I have heard the silent message
From the evergreens' great heart,
Bidding all our sorrows vanish
And our doubts and fears depart.
And your mission, gentle sister,
Is to choose the better part,
And plant the flowers of Faith and Hope
Within the human heart;
To point from earth to starry skies,
Where all our sorrows cease,
And tell how faithful spirits rise
To everlasting peace.

Conductress.

Fair Electa, bring your flower, with its glowing
crimson hue,
And repeat to us the lesson it is whispering to you.

Electa.

I came through tribulations,
Holding fast my Savior's cross—
Held it fast 'gainst Roman soldiers,
For it must not suffer loss.
Let this be to you a token
Of the love of God for man,
Knowing that, though poor and lowly,
We'er a part of His great plan.
May you never stop or falter,
Never feel yourself alone ;
Just take up YOUR cross and bear it,
For He always guards His own.

Conductress.

Once from their homes in Eastern lands
The Wise Men travelled far,
Seeking the promised one of God,
With Hope their guiding star.
Through weary deserts, heat oppressed,
Its bright light led them on;
Past kingly palaces they pressed
Until the day drew on.
At last o'er Bethlehem it stood,
Above the lowly inn
Where lay earth's hope—Heaven's sacrifice—
And there they worshipped Him.
And on Judea's lonely plain
On that fair Christmas morn,
While wondering shepherds stood amazed,
The Eastern Star was born.

And our Associate's "eyes of faith"
Have seen those rays afar,
And she will bind these blossoms now,
To represent that star.

The star revolves until the Associate Conductress is again opposite the candidates. Having recited her part she returns to position.

Associate Conductress.

(Holding up each star point as she talks.)

Blue are these wonderful flowers,
A token of God's silent love.
They speak no word, but their message is heard
Like whisperings from Heaven above.
And this ray shines bright on you and me
And we call it the "Star of Fidelity."

And these yellow flowers are industry's offering,
Scatter them broadcast wherever you go.
The seeds of good deeds bring the flowers of blessing,
And in the hereafter they'll blossom and grow.
So, steadfastly shining, since time gave it birth,
Fair "Constancy's Star" sheds its light o'er the earth.

Oh, wondrous flower of white and gold,
What love divine YOUR leaves enfold.
What tender loving memories start
Within the petals of your heart.
We bring this pure white flower now,
As a diadem for the queenly brow

Of that heroine whose light we see
Born in the "Star of Purity."

The evergreen's soft accents are whispering in my
ear
"He who was dead now liveth and we have naught
to fear."

The trusting heart goes singing along the shadowed
way
For at the end there shineth
The "Star of Faith's" bright ray.

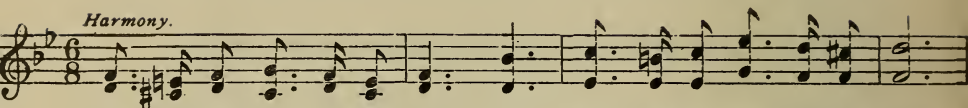
Go forth, dear crimson flower, under God's cerulean
sky,
And thou canst find a lesson in whatever meets
thine eye.
All nature is a sermon, so that he who will may
read,
There is love for all who seek it and the Father
knows our need,
And so, a light, not born of earth,—direct from
Heaven above,
Sheds a bright light o'er all the world,
'Tis called the "Star of Love."

(Presents bouquet.)

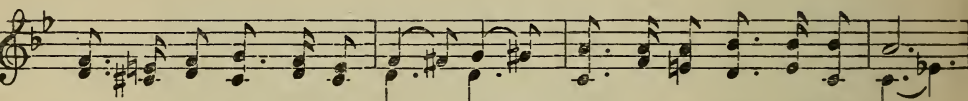
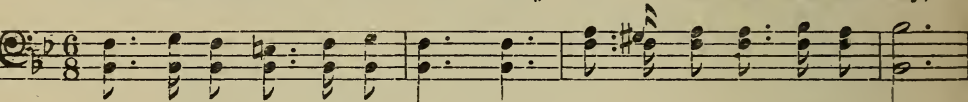
And lo, a perfect star appears—
An emblem of the good
And glorious virtues 'shrined within
The heart of Womanhood.

GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF THE FLOWERS

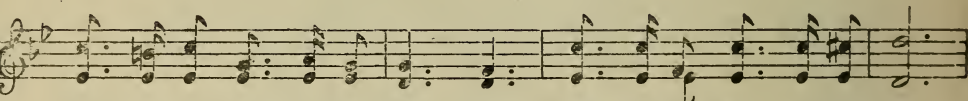
Harmony.



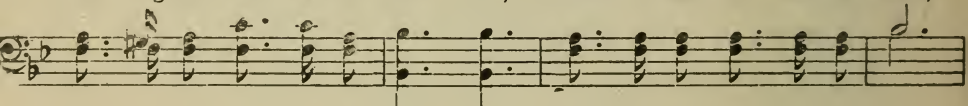
1. God will take care of the flow - ers, Bloom - ing on hill - side and plain,
2. God will take care of the bird - ies, Trill - ing their car - ols of glee,
3. God will take care of the chil - dren, Dear to the Fa - ther are they,

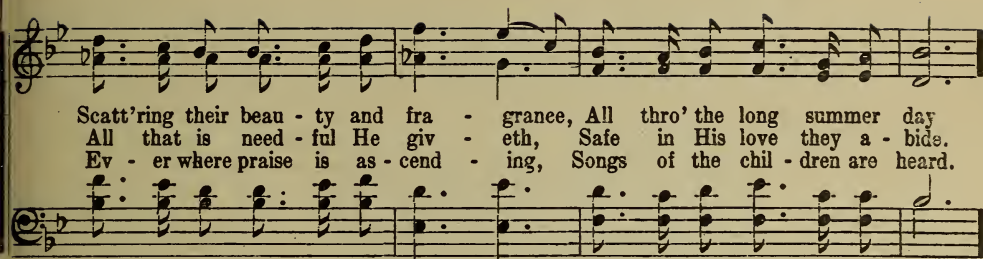


Bathed in the beau - ti - ful sun - light, Drink - ing the dew and the rain;
 Watched by the eye of the Fa - ther, Hap - py and care - less and free;
 Bloom - ing in beau - ty un - sul - lied, Fair - er than flow - ers of May;



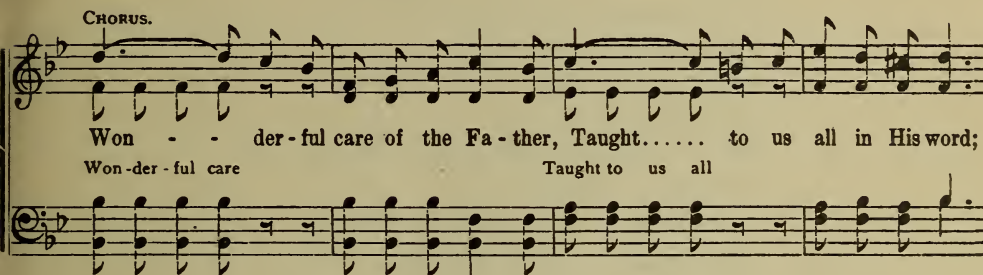
Gifts from the boun - ti - ful Fa - ther, Bless - ings that glad - den the way,
 Teach - ing a won - der - ful les - son, Ev - er in Him to con - fide,
 Lift - ing their voic - es in car - ols, Sweet - er than mu - sic of bird;



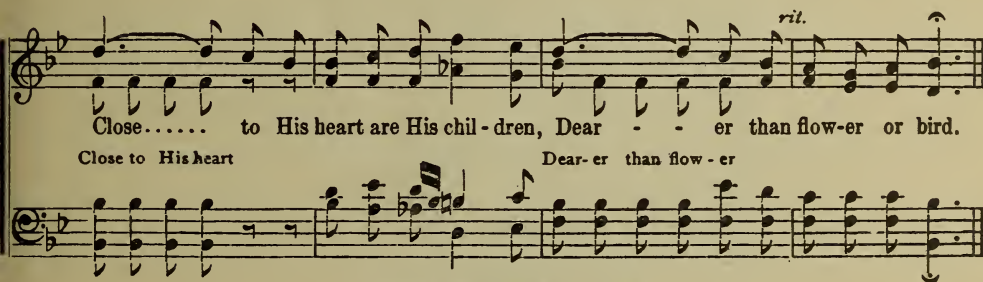


Scatt'ring their beau - ty and fra - grance, All thro' the long summer day
 All that is need - ful He giv - eth, Safe in His love they a - bide.
 Ev - er where praise is as - cend - ing, Songs of the chil - dren are heard.

CHORUS.



Won - - der - ful care of the Fa - ther, Taught..... to us all in His word;
 Won - der - ful care Taught to us all



Close..... to His heart are His chil - dren, Dear - - er than flow - er or bird.
 Close to His heart Dear - er than flow - er

Copyright by Robert F. Y. Pierce

Conductress.

Sister Marshal, can you add a word
To those we have already heard ?

The star revolves until the Marshal and Chaplain
come into position and recite.

Marshal.

Within the garden of our hearts
Are many blossoms growing.
And as each day and year departs
Fresh flowers we are sowing ;
The fragrant crimson rose of love,
Electa's best and fairest,
And Esther's snow white offering
Of Purity the rarest.
And growing in Ruth's lowly way,
The plant of Constancy,
While Martha's fadeless evergreen
The flower of Faith shall be,
And Adah plants, with faithful hand,
For all the world to see,
A modest little violet
That spells Fidelity.
And now these virtues YOU may share—
My sisters, give them room,
And in the garden of your heart
A hundred more will bloom.
Now, let us bow in reverence,
And with our Chaplain pray
That God will bless our offerings
In His most gracious way.

Chaplain raises hands in attitude of prayer.

Chaplain.

We come to Thee, oh Lord, in prayer,
Amidst these lovely flowers,
And ask that thou wilt truly bless
These wayward hearts of ours.
Help us to carry through our lives
The lessons we have learned,
And give us, Lord, the grace to bear
The slight we have not earned.
May we forgive the careless jest
That makes our weakness plain,
The hasty word that seems unfair,
The needless touch of pain.
And take us all at last, dear Lord,
To dwell with Thee above,
To bloom in endless glory
In the gardens of thy love.

At the conclusion of the Chaplain's work a hymn is sung, after which the Conductress says :

Conductress

Our floral star is now complete, and we will all
repair
To our sacred altar while our Patron offers prayer.

Star revolves, Matron and Associate Matron leave the star first, marching down north side of room, then Associate Conductress and Adah, Ruth

and Esther, Electa and Martha, Chaplain and Marshal, by twos to west of Esther's chair, then separate and take places around the altar, as provided for in Ritual, Secretary, Treasurer, Warder, Conductress and candidates joining the circle.

Worthy Patron repeats Prayer.

Our Father who art in Heaven, we ask Thy blessing upon all the ceremonies of this evening. May the lesson of the star and the flowers find an abiding place in the hearts of these, thy children, and bring forth good works to glorify thy name. Help us to exemplify in our lives the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, but above all Charity. For Faith is lost in sight, Hope ends in fruition, but Charity extends beyond the grave and through the boundless realms of Eternity. Hear our prayer, oh Lord, and Thine shall be the honor and the glory forever. Amen!

After singing "Blest be the Tie That Binds" or other appropriate hymn, the officers march in "Right and Left" all the way around the circle, the Matron and Patron returning to the East, and the Conductress with Candidates resuming her station in front of the East, while the officers return to their various stations.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 027 292 632 3